With Dr. Carter's Compts.

BILLERICAY

Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1901.

CHELMSFORD:

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MCMII.

REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my report for the year 1901.

Our sanitary district consists of twenty-four parishes, with a population according to the census of 1901 of 17,503, of which 11,889 are included in the Western, and 5,614 in the Eastern Division.

The total population of the Western Division is 11,889, but for statistical purposes the 1,698 inmates of the Asylum and 613 soldiers at Warley Barracks must be deducted. This leaves a population of 9,578, on which all birth and death returns must be calculated. In the population of the Eastern Division the Workhouse is included, as the inmates are drawn almost entirely from the population of the Union District.

The number of deaths registered was 504. Of these 24 were in the Workhouse, 75 in the Eastern Division, 114 in the Western Division, 291 in the Asylum, five in Warley Barracks, and six in the Cottage Hospital at Shenfield. Of the 24 in the Workhouse, six deaths were from the Brentwood "Locality," and have been transferred to the M. O. H. for that "Locality."

The births in the Eastern District, including Workhouse, were 139. The birth rate of the Eastern Division (including Workhouse) is 24·7. The death rate is 16·3 per thousand of the population.

The total number of births in the Western Division was 226.

For the Western Division the birth rate is 23·5. The death rate is 17·4 per thousand of the population.

The birth rate of the whole district is 23·4, and the death rate 16·8 per thousand of the population, the births and deaths in the Workhouse being included, with the exception of six deaths, which were transferred to Brentwood. This birth rate is an exceptionally low one.

The following tables will show the ages at which deaths occurred, and the diseases which caused the deaths :—

WESTERN DISTRICT—BILLERICAY UNION.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1901.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	2	...	1	1	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Enteric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Other contd.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza...	6	...	...	...	...	2	4
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	4	4	...	...	...	..	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	6	...	...	...	2	4	...
Other tubercular diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	11	...	...	...	...	3	8
Bronchitis	5	1	...	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	5	...	...	...	...	5	...
Pleurisy	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism } ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver }							
Venereal diseases ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..
Premature birth ...	8	8	..	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart diseases ...	12	...	...	...	...	4	
Accidents	2	1	...	...	...	1	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	..
All other causes ...	39	12	1	2	1	9	14
All causes ...	103	26	2	3	4	32	36

EASTERN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1901.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	4	3	1	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever (Typhus)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever (Enteric)	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever (Other contnd.)	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Epidemic influenza	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Plague	...	...	.	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	3	2	1	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	3	...	...	...	...	3	...
Other tubercular diseases	3	...	2	...	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	5	1	1	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia	4	1	1	...	...	1	1
Pleurisy	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Venereal diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	5	4	1	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	12	...	...	...	...	6	6
Accidents	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other causes	26	2	1	1	1	7	14
All causes	75	13	8	2	2	22	28

ASYLUM AT BRENTWOOD--COUNTY ASYLUM.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATHS DURING YEAR 1901.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Enteric	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Fever { Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	.	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Phthisis	19	...	..	...	7	11	1
Other tubercular diseases	5	...	...	...	4	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Bronchitis	7	...	2	1	...	1	3
Pneumonia	30	...	...	...	3	17	10
Pleurisy	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	2	...	..	...	...	...	2
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of Liver } ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Venereal disease	.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	9	...	...	...	...	8	1
Accidents	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	213	...	...	2	11	132	68
All causes	291	...	2	3	26	175	85

COTTAGE HOSPITAL, BRENTWOOD.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1901.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	..	...	...	..	...	..	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other tubercular diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Accidents	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	3	2	...	...	...	1	...
All causes	6	2	...	...	1	3	...

WARLEY BARRACKS & BILLERICAY R.S.A.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1901.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Fever { Enteric	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Fever { Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza... ...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	..	...	...	...	...	.	..
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other tubercular diseases...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of Liver } ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
All other causes	3	1	...	...	1	1	...
All causes	5	1	...	...	1	3	...

EASTERN DISTRICT—WORKHOUSE. Brentwood Urban.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1901.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Other continued	..	...	...	...	...	...	..
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Diarrhœa	..		...	...	..	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Other tubercular diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Pneumonia	4	...	1	1	...	...	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases	...	...	..	...	...	..	...
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	...	...	..	.	...	2	...
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	9	...	1	...	...	1	7
All causes	18	...	2	1	...	8	7

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

The deaths from the 8 principal Zymotic Diseases amounted to 18. They occurred 9 in the Eastern and 9 in the Western Division. The 8 principal Zymotic Diseases are as follows, and with them is given the number of deaths they respectively caused: Small Pox, 0; Scarlet Fever, 0; Diphtheria, 3; Enteric, 2; Erysipelas, 1; Whooping Cough, 4; Measles, 0; Diarrhœa, 8.

Phthisis.

Consumption caused 30 deaths as follows: 5 in the Eastern Division, including 2 in the Workhouse, and 25 in the Western Division, including 19 in the Asylum.

Influenza.

Eight deaths were attributed to Influenza, 2 in the Eastern Division, and 6 in the Western.

Cancer.

Cancer caused 21 deaths, 4 in the Eastern Division and 17 in the Western Division, including 5 in the Asylum.

Infectious Diseases.

Eighty cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year—of these 28 were in the Eastern Division, and 52 in the Western Division, including 1 in the Asylum.

They were as follows:—

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1901.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria ...	12	..	3	9	...	...	...	4
Membranous Croup	3	...	2	1	..	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	17	...	...	2	1	14	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	34	...	3	22	8	1	...	17
Enteric Fever ...	13	...	...	3	3	7	...	9
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals ...	80	...	8	37	12	23	...	30

Diphtheria.

Twelve cases of Diphtheria were notified. They occurred in 10 families and 4 parishes. One case was imported. In 1 case there was definitely defective drainage, and in 2 others there appeared to be school infection. There was no fatal case. The treatment at the District Hospital by injection of antitoxin is very general, and the results were decidedly good.

Enteric.

There were 13 cases of Enteric reported. In 1 the water supply was contaminated, and in 2 the drainage was defective. Three cases occurred at the Workhouse, 2 of them being imported, and the third was of an old man who attended to the closets at the Isolation Hospital. There was 1 case at the Asylum, but no evidence as to how the disease was contracted.

Scarlatina.

Thirty-four cases of Scarlatina were notified, they occurred in 25 families and in 10 parishes. There were 23 cases in the Western Division and 11 in the Eastern Division. There were no fatal cases and nothing approaching an epidemic.

Influenza.

There were 8 deaths registered as due to Influenza.

District Hospital.

Forty-four cases were admitted during the year, 26 of Scarlet Fever, 10 of Enteric, and 8 of Diphtheria.

There was only one fatal case, that being one of Enteric.

Twenty of the above cases were sent in from Brentwood Urban District under an arrangement with our Authority.

The Dairy industry is an important one in this district, and a general inspection has been made during the last year.

There are fifty-six Dairies which should be registered as such, and besides this there are a large number of farmers and small cowkeepers who supply milk to their neighbours without it being necessary to be registered as dairymen. Dairies.

There are 1,525 cows kept by dairymen. The milk of about 1,050 goes to London, of about 150 is sent to Southend, and of over 300 is sold locally.

As a rule the cowsheds are kept in good order and the cows clean. The dairies are invariably clean. Sour milk soon tells the tale of a dirty churn and carries with it the penalty to the dairyman

This has been another year with deficient rainfall, and the want of water has been severly felt in almost every part of the district. There are many cases where water has to be fetched from a great distance, even miles, for all domestic, and in some cases for agricultural, purposes. This is a very severe tax on the individual, and if possible some public supply, for which ample provision is made in the Act, should be provided. Water Supplies.

Vange, Bowers, Pitsea, Laindon, Basildon, North Benfleet are practically without any water supply except what is stored from the roof and what can be bought.

In Billericay there is hardly a well that has not given out, and the outlook for the coming summer is a very serious one, as there is no deep well in the neighbourhood, and no reservoir of any kind from which water can be obtained.

A proposal has been brought forward to sink a deep well in Great Burstead parish, and supply the parishes

named and any others that may require it. The cost can be spread over thirty years and will not be excessive.

A deficient supply of water is not only a hardship bearing especially on the poorer classes, but is directly injurious to health, and with the deficient rainfall of the last six or seven years the prospect of a water famine is a not very remote one.

Very many cottagers get their supply from ponds and ditches, and even for that have to go long distances. The scheme is a good one, and I would urge on the Authority to press it forward as quickly as possible.

The Local Government Board has been applied to to hold an inquiry.

Sewerage of Billericay.

The sewering of Billericay is still in the same condition, and there are many and serious nuisances caused by what are really open sewers running from all sides of the town. This also is an urgent matter which has been before the Authority for some years, and with which, as yet, no progress has been made.

In 1899 a Local Government Board inquiry was held, and a system of drainage was approved, and power to borrow money was granted, but nothing further has been done.

* Wickford also has not as yet adopted any plan for the disposal of its sewage, and the condition of the Crouch at that place has been for some summers a nuisance and a danger to the health of the inhabitants. Last summer the bed of the river was nothing less than an open cesspool, and the emanations from it were very foul and far reaching.

* Since writing the above, septic tanks have been introduced, and the nuisance has been abated.

The plans for the sewering of Brook Street have been brought forward and the matter is progressing.

In consequence of the prevalence of smallpox in London, and the probability that infection may be brought into the district, the Authority has made provision for any emergency by the purchase and putting up of tents and the purchase of an ambulance. A man and his wife have also been appointed as caretakers, so that cases can be at any time admitted without unnecessary delay.

Appended is the census return for 1901. As compared with the census of 1891 there is a net gain in this district of 1,998, which is equal to about 128·8 per thousand of population.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

FRED CARTER, M.D.

THE CENSUS RETURNS OF 1901, COMPARED WITH THE RETURNS OF 1891.

Parishes, &c.	1891	1901	Increase	Decrease	
Basildon	179	307	128	—	
Benfleet, North ...	169	180	11	—	
Bowers Gifford ..	183	238	55	—	
Billericay	1178	1130	—	48	
Burstead, Great ..	569	540	—	29	
Burstead, Little ..	239	248	9	—	
Childerditch ...	198	225	27	—	
Downham	266	258	—	8	
Dunton	137	138	1	—	
Horndon, East ..	466	425	—	41	
Hutton	458	629	171	—	
Ingrave and West Horndon .	653	641	—	12	
Laindon & Lee Chapel	319	417	98	—	
Mountnessing ...	912	910	—	2	
Nevendon	149	166	17	—	
Pitsea	235	357	122	—	
Ramsden Bellhouse ...	395	396	1	—	
Ramsden Crays ...	195	201	6	—	
Shenfield	1410	1962	552	—	
South Weald ...	3544	4235	691	—	
Vange	292	597	305	—	
Warley, Little ...	146	165	19	—	
Wickford	501	638	137	—	
Billericay Workhouse	224	189	—	35	These are Public institutions
Warley Barracks ...	1019	613	—	406	
Essex Lunatic Asylum	1469	1698	229	—	
Brentwood	4231	—	—	—	These are not now included in this Sanitary District.
Hackney Schools, Brentwood ...	540	—	—	—	
St. Charles' School, Brentwood ...	178	—	—	—	
London Board School, Shenfield ...	110	—	—	—	
	20564	17503	2579	581	